

AMENDMENT

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application with the following Listing of Claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method, comprising:

receiving, by a first communication device at different times, a first [[an]] input signal associated with a first virtual touch-at-a first communication device and a second input signal associated with a second virtual touch, the first communication device including a first user-interface member, a second user-interface member, and an actuator, whereby the first and second virtual touches originate originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the first and second virtual touches to the first communication device;

outputting, at the first communication device, a request to initiate a contact with the first user-interface member when to receive the first virtual touch is received and a second request to initiate a contact with the second user-interface member when the second virtual touch is received;

receiving the contact; and

providing a control signal to the actuator in response to the contact-with-the user-interface-member, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a first haptic effect associated with the first virtual touch-at-the user-interface-member when the first virtual touch is received and a second haptic effect associated with the second virtual touch when the second virtual touch is received.

2. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 1 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the first input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

3. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 1 wherein the first user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

4. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 1 wherein the first virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.
5. (**Currently Amended**) A method for generating a virtual touch at a first communication device that includes a plurality of user-interface members, the method comprising:
- receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at [[a]] the first communication device, wherein the virtual touch indicator indicates a particular one of the plurality of user-interface members to be contacted by an operator of the first communication device to receive the virtual touch, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device;
 - performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on the first communication device; and
 - outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator coupled to the [[the]] first communication device after performing the initialization.
6. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 5, wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to [[a]] the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members when the virtual touch indicator and the virtual touch signal is received-
~~coupled to the first communication device.~~
7. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 6 wherein the plurality of user-interface members includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.
8. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 5 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request to initiate a contact with the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members.

9. (**Original**) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

10. (**Currently Amended**) A tangible computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first communication device at different times, a first [[an]] input signal associated with a first virtual touch-at-a-first-communication-device and a second input signal associated with a second virtual touch, the first communication device including a first user-interface member, a second user-interface member, and an actuator, whereby the first and second virtual touches originate originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the first and second virtual touches to the first communication device;

outputting, at the first communication device, a request to initiate a contact with the first user-interface member when to receive the first virtual touch is received and a second request to initiate a contact with the second user-interface member when the second virtual touch is received;

receiving the contact; and

providing a control signal in response to the contact-with-the-user-interface-member-to-the-actuator, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a first haptic effect associated with the first virtual touch-at-the-user-interface-member when the first virtual touch is received and a second haptic effect associated with the second virtual touch when the second virtual touch is received.

11. (**Currently Amended**) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the first input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

12. (**Currently Amended**) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the first virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five,

a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

13. (**Currently Amended**) A tangible computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at a first communication device, wherein the first communication device includes a plurality of user-interface members, and wherein the virtual touch indicator indicates a particular one of the plurality of user-interface members to be contacted by an operator of the first communication device to receive the virtual touch, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device;

performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on the first communication device; and

outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator after performing the initialization.

14. (**Currently Amended**) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to [[a]] when a contact with the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members is received~~coupled to the first communication device.~~

15. (**Currently Amended**) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 14 wherein the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

16. (**Currently Amended**) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request to initiate a contact with the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members.

17 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus, comprising:

a first user-interface member coupled to a body and a second user-interface member coupled to the body;

a processor;

an actuator coupled to the body and in communication with the processor;

and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing instructions configuring the processor to:

receive, at different times, a first ~~[[an]]~~ input signal associated with a first virtual touch and a second input signal associated with a second virtual touch at the apparatus, whereby the first and second virtual touches originate ~~originates from a second apparatus operated by a user to communicate the~~ first and second virtual touches to the apparatus;

output a request to initiate a contact with the first user-interface member ~~to when the first receive the virtual touch is received and a second request to initiate a contact with the second user-interface member when the~~ second virtual touch is received;

receive an indication that the contact was made; and

provide a control signal ~~associated with the contact~~ to the actuator in response to the contact, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a first haptic effect associated with when the first virtual touch ~~[[at the user-interface member]] is received and a second haptic effect associated with the second virtual touch when the second virtual touch is received.~~

20. (**Original**) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the body is included in a handheld communication device.

21. (**Original**) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a

personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

22. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the first user-interface member includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

23. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

24. (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus, comprising:

- a plurality of user-interface members;
- a processor;
- an actuator coupled to at least one of the [[a]] plurality of user-interface members and in communication with the processor; and
- a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing instructions configuring the processor to:
 - receive a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal, wherein the virtual touch indicator indicates a particular one of the plurality of user-interface members to be contacted by an operator of the first communication device to receive the virtual touch, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second apparatus operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the apparatus;
 - perform an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator; and
 - output a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to the actuator after performing the initialization.

25. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the plurality of user-interface members are [[is]] coupled to a handheld communication device.

26. (**Original**) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

27. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the plurality of user-interface members includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

28. (**Original**) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

29. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.

30. (**Currently Amended**) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.